

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

The situations created here by recent policy changes bring us increasingly closer to a one-sided media for the majority of Americans. It is paramount that we do not allow our free press to be controlled by any one entity. If we allow this to happen it will eventually lead to the end of something we have spent over 200 years fighting for.

Thank you.